



BOARD HEARING GUIDE

Prepare focused testimony, preserve the evidence window, and understand what the hearing can and cannot do.



REVIEWER	FORMATS	EVIDENCE WINDOW
Veterans Law Judge	Virtual, video, or Board in person	At hearing or within 90 days after

REVIEW FIRST

A Board hearing is an opportunity to explain the disputed issue to a Veterans Law Judge. It is not a medical examination, a general status call, or a guarantee of a particular result.

BEFORE | BUILD THE HEARING FILE

PREPARE THE ISSUE, EVIDENCE, AND TESTIMONY

- Confirm every issue on appeal**
Use the docket notice and VA Form 10182 copy.
- Read the Reasons for Decision**
Organize testimony around the actual disputed facts and law.
- Create a short chronology**
Use dates for service, onset, treatment, filings, decisions, and material changes.
- Separate testimony from medical opinion**
Describe firsthand events, symptoms, and functional impact without inventing expert conclusions.
- Plan the evidence window**
Identify which documents will be submitted at the hearing or within 90 days afterward.

DURING | KEEP TESTIMONY USEFUL

ANSWER THE QUESTION THE JUDGE MUST DECIDE

FACT

Use specific facts

Give dates, locations, names, events, frequency, duration, and functional examples when personally known.

GAP

Address the disputed gap

Explain the evidence relevant to nexus, severity, effective date, credibility, or another stated issue.

ASK

Ask for clarification

If a question is unclear, request that it be repeated or narrowed before answering.

AFTER | CLOSE THE RECORD CORRECTLY

THE 90-DAY POST-HEARING WINDOW

Hearing occurs

Testimony is recorded and a transcript is added to the appeal file.



Submit planned evidence

File the identified documents during the permitted period with clear issue labels.



Record closes

Preserve receipt proof and wait for Board review unless the Board requests action.

90 DAYS

The evidence period generally closes 90 days after the hearing. Use the actual hearing date and current Board instructions to calculate it.

FORMAT | CHOOSE PRACTICAL ACCESS

HEARING FORMATS

WEB

Virtual tele-hearing

Join from a computer or mobile device using the Board's instructions.

VA

Videoconference at a VA location

Appear from an approved VA facility connected to the Veterans Law Judge.

DC

In person at the Board

Appear in Washington, D.C. and plan for personal travel costs.

A HEARING SHOULD HAVE A JOB

Choose the Hearing docket because testimony materially helps the issue, not because a hearing sounds more formal or persuasive in the abstract.

